



FACE Program Fact Sheet

Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation

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YOUTH LABORER DIES AFTER BEING PINNED UNDER TRACTOR WHILE DOING GROUNDSKEEPING

BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program received reports of 106 fatal occupational injuries during 1998. Tractor-related incidents accounted for nine (8%) of the total fatal injuries. One of those occurred when a youth laborer was pinned under a tractor while doing groundskeeping.

This fact sheet describes the incident and requests that occupational safety professionals and employers who use agricultural equipment bring the following recommendations to the attention of tractor drivers.



THE INCIDENT

A 14-year-old groundskeeper assistant died after being pinned under the wheel of a lawn tractor that rolled backward toward a pond on the grounds of a food processing plant. The youth was hired to provide lawn care services for the summer. He had been using the tractor, which was equipped with a mower deck, to mow grass around the pond. When the rear wheel of the tractor became stuck in mud on the edge of the pond, he apparently got off the tractor to push it from the rear. The tractor rolled backward, pinning him under the tire.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Tractor drivers should shift the tractor into neutral or park, set the brakes, and turn off the engine before getting off the tractor.**
- **Employers should know and comply with child labor laws which exclude employment of youths less than 16 years of age in hazardous occupations.**

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, in agreement with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts research on occupational fatalities. The Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program focuses on identifying factors that increase the risk of work-related fatal injuries. The Wisconsin FACE Program helps in the development and use of improved safety measures for preventing fatal work injuries.

PLEASE POST

FACE information is produced and distributed to provide current, relevant education on methods to prevent severe work-related injuries.

If you have comments or questions, please call the FACE Project at 608/266-7298, or write:

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